

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Original). A processor-based system comprising:
a display;
a user operable element positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the element, said operable element having a non-monotonic response to user actuation; and
a switch operatively coupled to the operable element.

2 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

3 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

4 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

5 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.

6 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a lens positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the lens.

7 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a light pipe positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the light pipe.

8 (Currently Amended). A processor-based system as recited in claim 1 40 wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

9 (Original). An apparatus comprising:

a processor;
a display operatively coupled to said processor;
a user operable element positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the element, said operable element having a non-monotonic response to user actuation; and,
a switch mechanically connected to the operable element and electrically coupled to the processor.

10 (Original). An apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

11 (Original). A processor-based system comprising:

a touch screen display;
a user operable element positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the element, said operable element having a non-monotonic response to user actuation; and,
a contactor operatively coupled to the operable element such that actuation of said element causes contact with the touch screen display.

12 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 13 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

13 (Original). A processor-based system comprising:

a display;
a user-operable element positioned over the display to enable viewing of the display through the element;
a switch operatively coupled to said operable element; and
a resilient element connected to said operable element such that operation of said operable element is resisted with a non-monotonic force.

14 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 13 wherein the resilient element is a rubber dome.

15 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 13 wherein the resilient element is a coil spring which breaks out of column in response to compressive force.

Claims 16-19 (Canceled).

20 (Original). A processor-based system comprising:

a display;

a user-operable element having a light pipe positioned over said display to enable viewing of the display through the light pipe; and,

a switch operatively coupled to said operable element.

21 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 20 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

22 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 20 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

23 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 20 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

24 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 20 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.

25 (Original). A processor-based system as recited in claim 20 wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

26 (Original). A method comprising:

providing a user-operable element for installation over a display;

providing a transparent part on the user-operable element that allows a portion of the display to be viewed through said element; and

creating a non-monotonic response to actuation of said element.

27 (Original). A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing a transparent part includes providing a lens.

28 (Original). A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing a transparent part includes providing a light pipe.

29 (Original). A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing a user-operable element includes providing a push button.

30 (Original). A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing a user-operable element for installation over a display includes providing an element for installation over a touch screen display.
